



# Honolulu On The Move

NEWSLETTER OF THE HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

## Rail Success Story In Houston



Former Houston mayor and environmentalist Kathy Whitmire, now living in Windward O'ahu, knows a thing or

two about how popular a rail transit system can be. Houston's Metro rail system has already reached ridership numbers initially projected for the year 2020.

"It's only been open for about five years, but it's already being extended," Whitmire said about the Houston rail system in a recent interview. "It just goes to show that when you provide an alternative to the automobile, the traffic and parking problems, that people will be willing to take advantage of it."

She knows that in any city, residents have a lot of places to go and need a variety of energy-efficient options like rail to get there. Kathy also supports rail because it helps protect the environment. Fewer vehicles on the roads because of rail means less greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.

"Automobiles create a lot of pollutants in our air and are a source of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change," she said. "One way we can solve this is by having a good transportation alternative like the rail transit system."

Whitmire noted that planned development around the transit stations can also create pedestrian-and bike-friendly communities that encourage energy-saving modes of transportation.

Watch the entire interview with Kathy Whitmire at the project's YouTube site: [www.youtube.com/user/honoluluon-themove](http://www.youtube.com/user/honoluluon-themove).

## Rail Transit: Environmentally Friendly Transportation



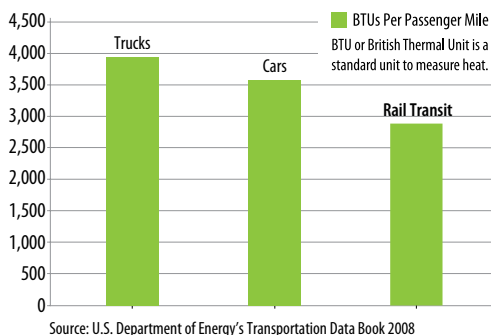
### Aloha!

April is Earth Month, a time to celebrate the three "R"s that are vital to protecting our environment: reduce, reuse and recycle. Honolulu's rail transit system will practice the 3 "R"s when train service starts and during guideway and rail station construction.

**Reduce.** Electrically powered rail transit will reduce the amount of energy our island uses for transportation. Rail utilizes 25 percent less energy per passenger mile on average than cars and 40 percent less than trucks, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Transportation Data Book 2008.

Rail will also reduce the number of cars and trucks on our roads. Because it will be a convenient, on-time alternative to sitting in traffic, rail will attract enough riders to take more than 30,000 vehicles off our roads daily when the system is fully operational. That will decrease Honolulu's carbon footprint and shrink the amount of greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere by cars and trucks.

### ENERGY USE: TRUCKS, CARS & RAIL



In another example, train stations will be designed to conserve energy use while being comfortable for commuters. Stations will be open air with natural ventilation from trade winds. Stations may use

high-strength, energy saving materials like industrial fabric instead of metal or plastics in certain areas; the fabric won't radiate heat on hot days.

The maintenance and storage facility, where the trains will be parked at night, is being designed with the three "R"s in mind. To be energy-efficient, the maintenance and storage facility will be built to silver certification standards under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

**Reuse and recycle.** When building rail transit, the project will encourage and, in some cases, require contractors to enact sustainability plans that recycle many valuable construction materials from demolished sites, such as asphalt, concrete, steel and rebar, whenever possible. This will minimize waste and divert materials from our landfill.

APRIL 2009



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## Contact Us

You can reach us by calling the project hotline at 566-2299 or by submitting your comments to [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org).

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like be removed from our mailing list.

## Rail Station Community Workshops In Spring & Summer

We want your ideas on rail station design this spring and summer, and we are traveling to communities along the route to get them. Over the next few months, the project will hold rail station community workshops for the first six transit stops to be built along the route from Kapolei to Leeward Community College.

The purpose is to inform the public about many of the station features and to gather residents' ideas for the design of ground-level facilities such as the entry lobby, landscaping, archways and additional elements. While operational components such the elevated platform and station roof will be a standard design, we want to ensure that, through this inclusive process, stations will express the character of their communities.

The first workshop for the Waipahu community was held on April 14. The next two Waipahu meetings are set for June 3 and July 8. Workshops for the Kapolei community will be held on May 13, June 22 and August 5. All workshops will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Workshops will also be held for the students, faculty and staff of Leeward Community College.

All workshops are free. For more information, visit the project website at [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org) or call 566-2299.